(b) looking to the poor railway network in the State whether Government is going to accept the projects to link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line, Jaisalmer to Sanu Jaisalmer to Barmer, and Jaipur to Nathdwara for industrial, mining and tourisrr development of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Rajasthan has the second largest route kilometres among all the states of the country. Projects for new line are sanctioned based upon their financial viability, operational advantages, regional development, socio-economic considerations, etc.

An updating survey for a 27 km long new line linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad BG line has been completed recently. As per the survey report, the cost of this new line has been assessed as Rs. 153.73 crore. North Western Railway has been asked to review the cost of the proposed new line. A separate survey for Jaisalmer-Sanu (25 kms) new Broad Gauge line has not been taken up.

The survey for Jaisalmer-Barmer as a part of Jaisalmer-Kandla had been completed in 2005-06 and project was not taken up. Jaipur-Nathdwara is already connected by railway line *via* Ajmer-Marwar and *via* Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Mavli.

Vacant posts of safety personnel

†2574. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many posts of safety personnel are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result of acute shortage of safety men, the number of rail accidents is increasing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is going to fill up these vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.09, 89024 safety related posts are lying vacant.

(c) and (d) The number of consequential train accidents have declined over the years. As regards filling up of the vacant posts, the same is a continuous process and the policy of railway administration is to fill up all available vacant posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Augmenting trains in North-Eastern Railway

2575. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.